

Note: H.B. 6667 testimony on this page, H.B. 6816 testimony on next page.

My name is Benjamin Purdy, I am a resident of Simsbury, Connecticut, and I strongly OPPOSE H.B. 6667.

Thirty years ago Connecticut enacted some of the most restrictive gun laws in our nation by banning hundreds of commonly used firearms by name and banning thousands more based on little more than cosmetic features. In 2013, Connecticut's assault weapons ban was modified to outlaw all but a small handful of semi automatic rifles and all ammunition feeding devices that hold more than ten bullets. Now, **Governor Lamont wants to modify the ban once again to outlaw an entire class of common firearms and virtually eliminate the right to carry a firearm for self defense.** If enacted, this legislation would be the fatal blow to the Second Amendment in the state of Connecticut. Connecticut gun owners are subjected to an expensive and invasive permitting scheme, an extremely limited number of firearms that are legal to own, limited capacity magazines that border on being unusable for self defense, and an overly complicated framework of laws where one slight misstep will turn them into a felon for life. Enough is enough.

If enacted, this bill will:

- Ban openly carrying firearms with no exceptions for hunting or while at a gun range. This could easily be amended to entirely outlaw the carrying of firearms, a right affirmed by the supreme court.
- Ban carrying firearms in establishments that serve alcohol, even if the person carrying a firearm is not consuming alcohol. We already have strict laws regarding carrying under the influence. I fear that this will turn bars and restaurants into soft targets for those looking to commit crimes of mass violence, such as an active shooter.
- Ban nearly all semiautomatic long guns, including the guns I use to protect my home and family.
- Ban the most common type of firearms used by hunters and youth shooters.
- Ration handgun purchases to no more than one a month. A measure I fear will be modified to further restrict firearm purchases.
- Institute a 10 day waiting period to buy any firearm despite FBI background check results being instantly available to gun dealers. I fear that this waiting period will be lengthened.
- Institute new education requirements for obtaining a carry permit that will drastically increase the price to obtain a carry permit and greatly affect the most economically vulnerable residents of our state.

We all share the goal of eliminating gun violence in our state. However, our governor continues to push for the most restrictive gun laws in the country while the thousands gun laws on out books fail to stop criminals every single day. Rather than targeting, law abiding, peaceable citizens, our governor should insist that prosecutors charge gun crimes to the fullest extent of the law. Instead, he allows our prosecutors to drop over half of all gun charges while demonizing the right to keep and bear arms.

I urge you in the strongest possible terms, do not support this bill!

Respectfully,

Benjamin Purdy  
CCDL Member

My name is Benjamin Purdy, I am a resident of Simsbury, Connecticut, and I strongly OPPOSE H.B. 6816.

I oppose this bill for the following reasons:

- This bill would ban the sale of ammunition to 18-20 year old adults, which would ultimately deny them their right to keep and bear arms that is enshrined in our state's and our country's constitutions. Under this bill, young adults would have no legal means to purchase ammunition in our state, effectively eliminating their right to own a firearm or use it for self defense purposes. Our constitution is clear: the bill of rights applies (including the second amendment) to all adults, regardless of age.
- This bill bans the ownership of body armor which is a life saving device. Banning body armor to prevent shooting deaths is analogous to banning life jackets to prevent drowning. Having worked part time for a company that sells body armor, I can assure you that the largest purchasers of armor are not prospective criminals but concerned parents looking to protect their children in a violent world. Voting to ban body armor is voting to make your constituents easier to kill.
- This bill would also mandate that the state issue a report on the viability of microstamping, the Hollywood inspired idea of a gun imprinting its serial number on each round it fires. While this idea has been around for years, this technology is in its infancy and is decades away from being viable. I fear that this technology will make firearms prohibitively expensive.

I urge you in the strongest possible terms not to support this piece of legislation that will severely restrict the rights of young adults, remove the defenses of schoolchildren, and seek to mandate all firearms be outfitted with costly and unproven technology. Lastly, as a single issue voter, I will do everything in my power to make sure that any legislator that votes to restrict my fundamental human right to an effective means of self defense will not be elected to public office again.